

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, November 9, 1896, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell 1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C. November 9th 1896. My dear Alec:

I wrote you again this morning after receiving Mrs. Ellis' letter claiming that I had promised through you to give her \$200.00. It broke me all up coming as it did after the two other unexpected blows, the condition of our bank account, and the house bill for \$500.00, and I felt utterly in despair, babyish and foolish wanting my husband to comfort and help me. But I did not see what you could do and my letter would have only worried you, so I tore it up. Colonel Wilson sent me some lovely flowers, and they cheered me a lot. I received your telegram, I wish you had answered my question because Mrs. Ellis wants the money at once. I cannot remember suggesting that you should give her more than \$100.00 and that I thought had been paid, hence her letter was such a shock.

Thanks for your letter of Wednesday. I want further details and hope that you are now making real progress. How very interesting it is to watch the consequence of adding to or subtracting from your instrument pieces less than a quarter inch in length. I would like to see you make the experiments if the differences in lift are perceptible to the eye. I hardly ever see Mr. Langley and I think it would really be more fair not to tell him of your experiments. I am sure if I were he I would rather not know of them because my knowledge would affect my own work, and I should not be sure that my ideas were entirely original or borrowed from you, and that would annoy me.

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Mr. C. P. Crane of Chicago called this afternoon, he and Mrs. Crane are troubled about Josephine as they do not think she understands as well as she ought. Their governess is leaving and they don't know whether to try and get another or send her to school. They

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evidently want help. I told him of that teacher of Miss Garrett's and of Miss Warren, and he took down their names and said he would call on them, and go on to Northampton and to Cambridge to see Miss Sullivan. Josephine is head of her class in the Public School, but she requires the aid of her governess. I feel very sorry for them and in some measure responsible for I am sure Josephine's backwardness is due to Miss Hudson's bad teaching and it was through us they got Miss Hudson.

Elsie and I went out to play whist with your Father and Mother. I think we have been out at least twice every week. Your Mother is better, I took her out some soup as Dr. Kerr says she needs better and more nourishing food. She was pleased and gave me some plated silver candlesticks that belonged to your Father's stepmother which pleased me very much. Mary brought them up from Colonial Beach election day. She said she went down there in the interest of silver!

Goodnight, I love you. Ever yours,